Weekly Great Lakes Water Level Update for July 16, 2004

Recent Weather: Hot and humid conditions occurred in the Great Lakes basin this week in advance of a strong upper level disturbance. Monday and Tuesday saw temperatures top out in the upper 80s to near 90 in places, but high humidity made it feel much hotter. The hot and muggy air helped fuel violent thunderstorms across the basin on Tuesday as the disturbance pushed through. Manitowoc County in Wisconsin saw a tornado touch down and several other locations saw large hail, damaging winds and heavy rain. Cooler conditions and lingering showers occurred Wednesday before the system finally cleared the basin on Thursday.

Current Lake Levels: All of the Great Lakes are currently higher than the levels of a year ago. Lake Michigan-Huron has the greatest increase over last year, being 13 inches higher than the level of a year ago. The remaining lakes are 2 to 9 inches higher than last year's levels. The upper Great Lakes remain below average with current levels at 4, 9, and 2 inches below average for Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron, and St. Clair, respectively. Lake Erie is currently at its long-term average for July, while Lake Ontario is 4 inches above average.

Current Outflows/Channel Conditions: The Lake Superior outflow through the St. Marys River into Lake Huron is expected to be near average during the month of July. Flows in the St. Clair and Detroit Rivers are expected to be below average. The Niagara and St. Lawrence River flows are projected to be near average for the month of July.

Temperature/Precipitation Outlook: There will be a chance of showers and thunderstorms across the Great Lakes basin this weekend. Temperatures will be slightly cooler than average, topping out in the 70s. Preliminary outlooks into next week show a chance of showers beginning Wednesday.

Forecasted Water Levels: Lake Superior is expected to continue its seasonal rise over the next month, increasing by approximately 1 inch. Lake Michigan-Huron is approaching its seasonal peak this month while Lakes St. Clair, Erie, and Ontario will continue their seasonal decline during the next month. Lakes St. Clair and Erie are expected to decline 3 inches, while Lake Ontario is predicted to drop 5 inches over the next month.

Alerts: Users of the Great Lakes, connecting channels and St. Lawrence River should keep informed of current conditions before undertaking any activities that could be affected by changing water levels. Mariners should utilize navigation charts and refer to current water level readings.

Further Information: Please visit the following web sites for more detailed information:

http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/glhh
http://www.ijc.org
http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Storage/HH/IJC/Superior/index.shtml
http://www.islrbc.org/
http://www.great-lakes.net/envt/water/levels/hydro.html

WATER LEVELS OF THE GREAT LAKES
WEEKLY DATA SUMMARY

Forecasted information provided by:
Department of the Army
Detroit District, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1027
Detroit, Michigan 48231
(313) 226-6442

Recorded data (1918 – present)
provided by:
NOAA, National Ocean Service
SSMC4 Station 7523
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3233
(301) 713-2902

	SUPERIOR	MICH-HURON	ST. CLAIR	ERIE	ONTARIO
Expected water level for **July 16, 2004,** in feet	601.8	578.7	574.6	571.9	246.4
Chart datum, in feet	601.1	577.5	572.3	569.2	243.3
Difference from **chart datum,** in inches	+8	+14	+28	+33	+37
Difference from **last month,** in inches	+2	+2	0	-2	-2
Difference from **last year,** in inches	+6	+13	+9	+5	+2
Difference from **long-term monthly** average level for July, in inches	-4	-9	-2	0	+4
Difference from **highest** recorded monthly mean level for July, in inches	-16 (1950)	-40 (1986)	-31 (1986)	-28 (1986)	-22 (1947)
Difference from **lowest** recorded monthly mean level for July, in inches	+18 (1926)	+24 (1964)	+26 (1934)	+34 (1934)	+38 (1934)
Projected change in levels by August 16, 2004, in inches	+1	0	-3	-3	-5

ALL DATA SHOWN IN THIS SUMMARY ARE REFERENCED TO IGLD 1985